

RETURN

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To Parliament by the Minister of the Interior of:—

- (1). *Copy of Articles of Convention* of the 21st August, 1906, between the United States and Great Britain, as to the demarcation of the boundary line between Alaska in the United States, and the British possessions in North America;
- (2). *Copy of First Joint Report* of the Commissioners under such articles of Convention;
- (3). *Copy of His Majesty's Commissioners letter* of the 14th October, 1907, transmitting such Report to the Minister of the Interior;
- (4). *Copy of the Order in Council* of the 23rd July, 1906, nominating Mr. W. F. King Chief Astronomer of the Department of the Interior to be His Majesty's Commissioner, under such Articles of Convention;
- (5). *Copy of Dispatch* of the 7th December, 1906, from the Imperial Government; and
- (6). *Copy of Enclosure* therein mentioned.

GREAT BRITAIN—ALASKAN BOUNDARY.

CONVENTION between the United States and Great Britain providing for the surveying and marking out upon the ground of the 141st degree of west longitude where said meridian forms the boundary line between Alaska and the British possessions in North America.

Signed at Washington, April 21, 1906.

Ratification advised by the Senate, April 25, 1906.

Ratified by the President, July 10, 1906.

Ratified by Great Britain, June 9, 1906.

Ratifications exchanged at Washington, August 16, 1906.

Proclaimed, August 21, 1906.

By the President of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas a Convention between the United States of America and His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, providing for the surveying and marking out upon the ground of the 141st degree of west longitude where said meridian forms the boundary line between Alaska and the possessions in America of His Britannic Majesty, was concluded and signed by their respective plenipotentiaries at Washington, on the twenty-first day of April, one thousand nine hundred and six, the original of which Convention is word for word as follows:

Whereas by a treaty between the United States of America and His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, for the cessation of the Russian possessions in North America to the United States, concluded March 30, 1867, the most northerly part of the boundary line between the said Russian possessions and those of His Britannic

Majesty, as established by the prior convention between Russia and Great Britain, of February 28/16, 1825, is defined as following the 141st degree of longitude west from Greenwich, beginning at the point of intersection of the said 141st degree of west longitude with a certain line drawn parallel with the coast, and thence continuing from the said point of intersection, upon the said meridian of the 141st degree in its prolongation as far as the Frozen Ocean; And whereas, the location of said meridian of the 141st degree of west longitude between the terminal points thereof defined in said treaty, is dependent upon the scientific ascertainment of convenient points along the said meridian and the survey of the country intermediate between such points, involving no question of interpretation of the aforesaid treaties but merely the determination of such points and their connecting lines by the ordinary processes of observation and survey conducted by competent astronomers, engineers and surveyors;

And whereas such determination has not hitherto been made by a joint survey as is requisite in order to give complete effect to said treaties;

The United States of America and His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the seas, Emperor of India, being equally desirous to provide for the surveying and making out upon the ground of the said astronomical line established by existing treaties, and thus to remove any possible cause of difference between their respective governments in regard to the location of the said 141st meridian of West Longitude, have resolved to conclude a convention to that end, and for that purpose have appointed their respective plenipotentiaries:

The President of the United States of America, The Honourable Elihu Root, Secretary of State of the United States, and His Britannic Majesty, The Right Honourable Sir H. Mortimer Durand, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States;

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, which were found in due and proper form, have agreed to and concluded the following articles:

ARTICLE I.

Each Government shall appoint one Commissioner with whom may be associated such surveyors, astronomers and other assistants as each Government may elect.

The Commissioners shall at as early a period as practicable ascertain by the telegraphic method a convenient point on the 141st meridian of West Longitude and shall then proceed under joint direction and by their joint operations in the field, to trace and mark so much of a north and south line passing through said point as is necessary to be defined for determining the exact boundary line as established by the said Convention of 28/16 February, 1825, between the possessions in America of His Britannic Majesty, and the adjacent possessions in America formerly belonging to His Majesty The Emperor of all the Russias and ceded to the United States by the said Treaty of 30th March, 1867.

ARTICLE II.

The location of the 141st meridian as determined hereunder shall be marked by intervisible objects, natural or artificial, at such distances apart as the Commissioners shall agree upon and by such additional marks as they shall deem necessary, and the line when and where thus marked, in whole or in part, and agreed upon by the Commissioners, shall be deemed to define permanently for all international purposes the 141st meridian mentioned in the treaty of February, 28/16, 1825, between Great Britain and Russia.

The location of the marks shall be described by such views, maps and other means as the Commissioners shall decide upon, and duplicate records of these descriptions shall be attested by the Commissioners jointly and be by them deposited with their respective Governments, together with their final report hereinafter mentioned.

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ARTICLE III

Each Government shall bear the expenses incident to the employment of its own appointees and of the operations conducted by them, but the cost of material used in permanently marking the meridian, and of its transportation and erection in place, shall be borne equally and jointly by the two Governments.

ARTICLE IV.

The Commissioners shall diligently prosecute the work to its completion and they shall submit to their respective Governments from time to time, and at least once in every calendar year, a joint report of progress, and a final comprehensive report upon the completion of the whole work.

ARTICLE V.

The present convention shall be duly ratified by the President of the United States of America, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, and by His Britannic Majesty, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Washington or at London as soon as possible.

In faith whereof, we the respective plenipotentiaries have signed this convention and have hereunto affixed our seals.

Done in duplicate at Washington this twenty-first day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and six.

ELIHU ROOT.
H. M. DURAND.

And whereas the said Convention has been duly ratified on both parts, and the ratifications of the two Governments were exchanged at the City of Washington, on the sixteenth day of August, one thousand nine hundred and six;

Now, therefore, be it known that I, Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, have caused the said Convention to be made public, to the end that the same and every article and clause thereof may be observed and fulfilled with good faith by the United States and the citizens thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

Done at Washington, this twenty-first day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and six, and of the independence of the United States of America the one hundred and thirty-first.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

By the President:

ALVEY A. ADEE,
Acting Secretary of State.

First Joint Report of the Commissioners for the demarcation of the 141st degree of west longitude.

The undersigned Commissioners, appointed in virtue of the first Article of the Convention between the United States and Great Britain, signed at Washington on the 21st April, 1906, have the honour to present their first report upon the progress of the demarcation of the one hundred and forty-first meridian of west longitude where it forms the boundary line between the United States and Canada.

By Article I of the Convention it was provided that the survey of the line should be based upon a telegraphic determination of the longitude at some convenient point. When the undersigned became aware that the terms of the Convention had been

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agreed upon, they were met by the consideration that the refined astronomical observations requisite for this determination could not properly be made except during the summer, while the reduction of the observations would require a considerable time. In order that full advantage of the summer season of 1907 should be taken in the survey of the line, with a view especially to meeting urgent demands which had been made for an early demarcation of that portion which extends southward from the Yukon River to the St. Elias Alps, it appeared desirable that the astronomical observations which were a necessary preliminary to the operations should be completed during 1906.

The undersigned, having these circumstances in mind, decided to utilize, in advance of the formal ratification and proclamation of the Convention, the organizations which are under their direction, namely, the Astronomical Branch of the Department of the Interior of Canada and the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, in performing the astronomical work. Accordingly, observers were sent out about the end of July, who completed the necessary observations in August and September. The computations were made during the winter.

The only point of the 141st meridian which is in telegraphic communication with outside points is the crossing of the Yukon River. This point, therefore, was necessarily chosen for the astronomical determination. The telegraphic connection is by the lines of the Canadian Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company with Vancouver, B. C.; and also by the United States Government line, with Ft. Egbert, Alaska.

The longitudes at Vancouver and Ft. Egbert, as reckoned from Greenwich, had already been determined by operations carried on under the two Governments and by the most approved methods. Hence a determination of the meridian by two telegraphic routes was possible, and as such double determination would result in increased accuracy it was resolved upon, and observers were sent to each of the three stations, Vancouver, Ft. Egbert and the meridian.

When the observations had been reduced, the records and computations were examined by both Commissioners who, at a conference held in Ottawa in March last, agreed upon instructions to the line surveyors that the final and agreed longitude of the observing pier at the Yukon River was $9^{\text{h}} 24^{\text{m}} 0^{\text{s}}$, 027 west of Greenwich, or seventeen feet, approximately, to the west of the true meridian of one hundred and forty-one degrees west of Greenwich.

In pursuance of instructions prepared by the Commissioners at the conference above mentioned, a joint party was sent out in search for the purpose of establishing the initial point and determining the direction of the meridian. At the opening of navigation on the Yukon River in May, a joint survey party followed.

Two aluminum-bronze monuments have been placed to mark the meridian at the crossing of the Yukon, one on each bank, and at this date the tracing out of the line southward, and the triangulation and topographical work of the survey, are in active progress.

W. F. KING,
H. B. M. Commissioner.

O. H. TITTMANN,
U. S. Commissioner.

OTTAWA, August 27, 1907.

Hon. FRANK OLIVER, M. P.,
Minister of the Interior,
City.

OTTAWA, CANADA, October 14, 1907.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit a joint report made upon the provisions of the Convention of 1906, by Mr. O. H. Tittmann and myself as Commissioners for

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the demarcation of the 141st Meridian of West Longitude, where it forms the boundary line between Canada and the United States.

I would recommend that this report be laid before Parliament at the coming session.

W. F. KING,
H. B. M. Commissioner,

To the Honourable
The Minister of the Interior.

Extract from a Report of the Committee of the Privy Council, approved by the Governor General on the 23rd July, 1906.

The Minister of the Interior submits that Article 1 of the Convention which has been recently ratified between Great Britain and the United States, providing for the survey of the Alaskan-Canadian Boundary along the 141st meridian of west longitude, makes provision for the appointment by each Government of one Commissioner for the carrying on of the work.

The Minister recommends that Mr. W. F. King, Chief Astronomer of the Department of the Interior, be nominated for the position of His Majesty's Commissioner.

The Committee advise that His Excellency be moved to advise the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies accordingly.

All which is respectfully submitted for approval.

JOHN J. McGEE,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

DOWNING STREET;
7th Dec., 1906.

CANADA.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to transmit to you, for the information of your Ministers, with reference to your despatch, No. 259, 11th August, the papers noted in the subjoined schedule.

ELGIN.

The Officer Administering
The Government of Canada.

Date	From	To	Subject.
7th Nov.	Sir H. M. Durand.	Sir E. Grey.	Demarcation of the Alaska boundary line along the 141st meridian.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, 7th Nov., 1906.

SIR,—With reference to your despatch No. 151 of August 10th last, I have now the honour to report that I have received a note from the Acting Secretary of State informing me that Mr. O. H. Tittmann, Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey has been appointed Commissioner of the United States for the demarcation of the Alaska Boundary line along the 141st Meridian under Article I of the Alaskan Boundary Convention of April 1st, 1906.

H. M. DURAND.

